

REBECCA OTIS.

MAY 16, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENRY, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 4173.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4173) granting an increase of pension to Rebecca Otis, have examined the same and all the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$12 to \$24 per month the pension of Rebecca Otis, of Manchester, Iowa.

If any woman living is entitled to a pension of \$24 or more per month Rebecca Otis, this claimant, is. She has a double claim upon the Government, and, in the opinion of your committee, is entitled to the relief sought.

She served faithfully as an army nurse during the late civil war, and her usefulness in alleviating misery, with her sympathetic kindness to the sick and wounded, and her devotion to her country and unremitting attention to duty won the kind consideration of all who knew her or who heard of her services. While in the service as a nurse she contracted a malady and disabilities from which she still suffers.

Rebecca Otis is also the widow of a Union soldier, John Otis, who served as private, Company F, Twelfth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, from November 20, 1861, to November 24, 1864, when honorably discharged, and who died January 29, 1886, at the age of 77 years, of disease and disabilities adjudicated to have been incurred in the service. Rebecca Otis was married to John Otis, the soldier, December 31, 1859, and was the wife of the soldier during the war.

This claimant offered her services as a nurse and was accepted and served as such over three years in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. She is now over 73 years of age and very poor; is in necessitous circumstances; has no one on whom she can rely for support except charitable friends, and is unable to earn anything.

She requires the frequent and almost constant care and attention of another person. She is now drawing \$12 per month as the widow

of the soldier, a sum inadequate for her support. Under the law she can not also draw a pension as an army nurse, although she would be entitled to \$12 per month on that ground were she not drawing the \$12 as widow of the soldier.

It is therefore eminently just and proper that this increase to \$24 per month be granted on account of her long and valuable service as an army nurse and her age and necessitous circumstances.

The Grand Army post and her neighbors and friends unite in asking this relief.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In lines 4 and 5 strike out "as an army nurse" and insert in lieu thereof the words "the name of."

In line 5, after the word "Otis," insert the words "late an army nurse, and pay her a pension."

In line 6 strike out the words "and this shall be."

